

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 207

Introduced by Nantkes, 46.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to (1) examine the statutory means by which a city of the primary class would establish a separate transit authority, similar to Omaha's Metro Area Transit (MAT) and (2) identify the steps that need to be taken at the federal or state level to facilitate the transfer of transit assets from a city of the primary class to a separate transit authority.

MAT is Omaha's public transit system. Created pursuant to the Transit Authority Law, MAT is a governmental subdivision that is separate from the city of Omaha. It is vested with a number of powers and duties, including the ability to set routes and raise revenue. MAT is governed by a five-member board of directors who are appointed by local elected officials.

The Transit Authority Law applies only to cities of the metropolitan class. In the city of Lincoln (a primary class city), the public transit system is known as StarTran. StarTran is not a separate governmental subdivision; rather, it is a division of the city's Public Works and Utilities Department. As such, many of StarTran's activities, including budgeting and major route-setting, are subject to approval by the city council or the mayor.

It is the intent of the Legislature that this interim

study will examine whether or not it is sound public policy to allow a city of the primary class to create a separate transit authority and determine an outline of the steps necessary at the federal or state level to facilitate the transfer of transit assets from a city of the primary class to the separate transit authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Urban Affairs Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.